National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory 1992



Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Landscape Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

# **Table of Contents**

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Concurrence Status

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

# **Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan**

## **Inventory Summary**

### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

#### **CLI General Information:**

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

### Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

## **Inventory Unit Description:**

The Memorial Landscape at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site lies to the west of U.S. Highway 31 E. The component landscape is part of the Pennyrile physiographic region, identified by karst geology and rolling hills. Limestone dissolved in underground water systems results in caves, sinkholes, and ponds among steep ridges and stone escarpments.

The Birthplace unit tract includes the commemorative Memorial Landscape as well as a recreation area to the east of the bisecting highway. The location of the farm and cabin where Abraham Lincoln was born is the centerpiece of the component landscape. A Neoclassical Memorial Building encloses a reconstruction of the birth cabin within a formal commemorative landscape. The landscape includes the core 1911 John Russell Pope Memorial Building, stairway, plaza, allée, hedges, and small-scale features as well as development from the War Department and NPS Mission 66 initiative.

The entrance to ABLI Memorial Landscape from U.S. 31 E begins on a two-lane park road. Granite markers once flanked the entry, and were subsequently removed. The discarded stone entry markers from possibly two periods of development were recently located in the picnic area to the east of the highway. Traffic circulates into a one-way parking ellipse that was part of the War Department improvements (1929). Overflow parking was added beyond the ellipse during Mission 66 (1958). A service drive leads off the main road to the maintenance complex and park housing. The Visitor Center, constructed in 1958, orients visitors to the park and provides interpretation in a centralized location. The modern structure does not contribute to the cultural landscape and a glass atrium, added to the entrance in 1991, was removed in 2003.

A concrete sidewalk leads from the Visitor Center to the Plaza and the core commemorative landscape. The Plaza is a 200'x 80' grassy rectangle oriented northeast by southwest with transecting aggregate concrete paths. A flagpole, with a circular pink granite base occupies the center of the Plaza. The southwest boundary has a 44' limestone wall that contains a built-in bench. A limestone and concrete staircase reconnects the Plaza to the parking ellipse.

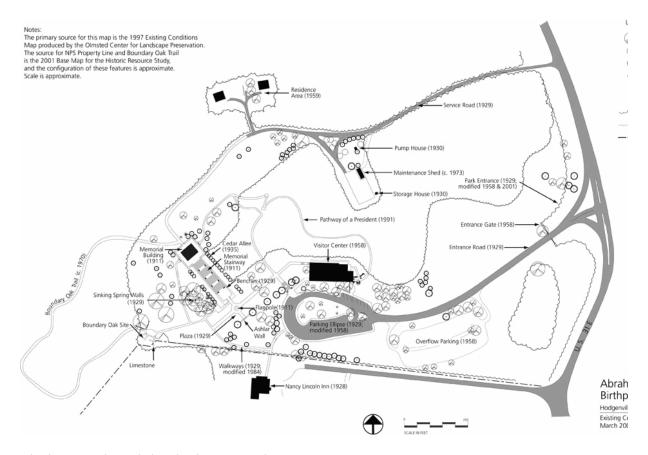
From the Plaza, a grand staircase leads to the knoll (and building) that dominate the landscape. The top of the knoll was identified as the original location of the Lincoln birthplace cabin. The staircase is terraced to create a series of experiences, a landscape to move upward through to reach the Memorial Building. A red cedar allée and clipped hedge frame the stair and vista from the Plaza to the Memorial Building. Lombardy poplars were originally planted to reinforce the formality of the architecture in the landscape, but were replaced in 1935 by the NPS. As recommended in the 2004 CLR, the 23 remaining red cedars were removed in 2006, and a new allée of red cedars and Japanese holly hedge were installed.

The Memorial Building is a single Neoclassical chamber housing the cabin. A platform sidewalk surrounds the 35'x 50' building with concrete benches placed around the perimeter. The building is a contributing feature and the centerpiece of the Memorial Landscape. The distance view of agricultural fields has been compromised by vegetation, highway development, and Nancy Lincoln Inn over the years.

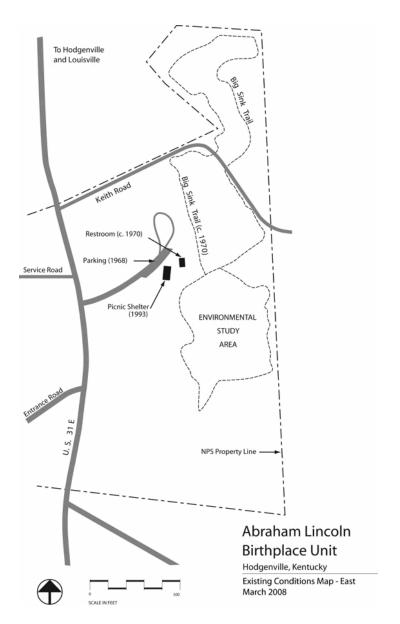
The Sinking Spring lies south of the Memorial Building stairway and is built up with stone retaining walls (1929). A stair leads down to the spring pool, surrounded by a platform and two stone benches along the south wall. A water-fountain is located at the top of the Sinking Spring stairs. Split-rail fences line the boundary near U.S. 31 E and the portion of the park bounded by the Nancy Lincoln Inn. All split-rail fencing in the park was replaced in 2006.

A trail system also connects the Visitor Center and the Memorial Building. A boardwalk called the Pathway of a President provides handicap access to the birthplace site, while footpaths through the wooded area explore natural resources to the west. The Boundary Oak location remains intact, though 1991 landscape projects further diminished the historic setting of the feature.

## Site Plan



Abraham Lincoln Birthplace landscape Site Plan, West portion, 2008.



Abraham Lincoln Birthplace landscape, East portion, 2008.

## **Property Level and CLI Numbers**

Inventory Unit Name: Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Landscape

Property Level: Landscape

CLI Identification Number: 550132

Parent Landscape: 550132

**Park Information** 

Park Name and Alpha Code: Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

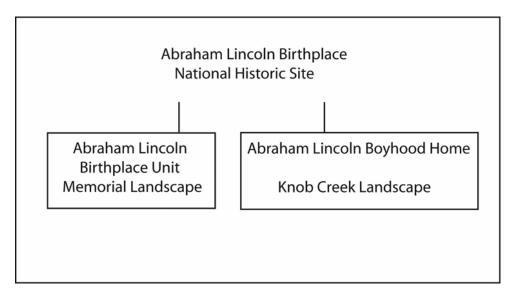
-ABLI

Park Organization Code: 5540

Park Administrative Unit: Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

## **CLI Hierarchy Description**

The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Landscape (1909-1935) is located within the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site and a significant landscape commemorating the assassinated president. The remainder of the birthplace tract is used recreationally. ABLI NHS recently acquired Abraham Lincoln's Boyhood Home at Knob Creek, nearby, which is designated a separate cultural landscape.



CLI Hierarchy, ABLI landscapes, 2008.

### **Concurrence Status**

**Inventory Status:** Complete

## **Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:**

David Hasty and Beth Wheeler visited the Memorial Landscape in December 2005 and conducted archival research at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHS. Sandy Brue is the park contact.

#### **Concurrence Status:**

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 07/22/2008

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

**Date of Concurrence Determination:** 07/31/2008

# **Geographic Information & Location Map**

## **Inventory Unit Boundary Description:**

The Memorial Landscape is located in Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in LaRue County, Kentucky. The park is bisected north-south by U.S. 31E which effectively divides the park tract into two distinct sections. The Memorial Landscape (to the west) includes the commemoration of Abraham Lincoln and extant features from the birthplace landscape- the Boundary Oak site and Sinking Spring. The east section is used for recreation and contributes as part of Thomas Lincoln's farmstead. The National Register district includes both sections of the park.

The farm established by Thomas Lincoln was located on the high ground next to Sinking Spring and used agriculturally for corn, tobacco, bluegrass and other crops until the turn of the twentieth century when interest escalated in commemorating Abraham Lincoln. The former pastoral landscape has a designed landscape superimposed upon it, relating to the memorial of the assassinated president, which has been expanded over the years. The development of the site of Lincoln's birthplace began with the preservation by the Lincoln Farm Association and continued under the War Department and National Park Service (1909-1935).

### State and County:

State: KY

**County:** Larue County

**Size (Acres):** 116.50

## **Boundary UTMS:**

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Area

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 16

**UTM Easting:** 611,432

**UTM Northing:** 4,154,314

Boundary Datum Other: Boundary Oak site

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Area

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 16

UTM Easting: 611,268

**UTM Northing:** 4,154,426

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Area

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 16

UTM Easting: 611,357

**UTM Northing:** 4,154,573

**Source:** USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Area

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 16

UTM Easting: 611,270

**UTM Northing:** 4,154,640

Ca	LICCC Mars 1.24 000
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Area

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 16

**UTM Easting:** 611,267

**UTM Northing:** 4,154,655

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Area

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 16

**UTM Easting:** 612,148

**UTM Northing:** 4,155,028

**Source:** USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Area

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 16

**UTM Easting:** 612,191

**UTM Northing:** 4,155,031

**Source:** USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Area

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 16

**UTM Easting:** 612,058

**UTM Northing:** 4,155,131

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Area

VAD 83
١

UTM Zone: 16

**UTM Easting:** 612,107 **UTM Northing:** 4,155,183

**Source:** USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Area

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 16

**UTM Easting:** 612,233

**UTM Northing:** 4,155,175

Source: USGS Map 1

Type of Point: Area

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 16

UTM Easting: 612,295

**UTM Northing:** 4,154,369

Source: USGS Map 1

Type of Point: Area

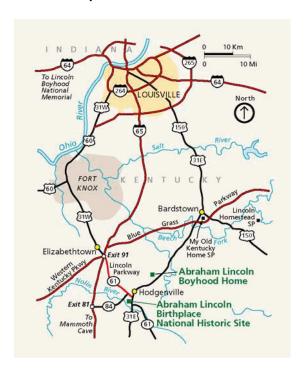
Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 16

**UTM Easting:** 611,510

**UTM Northing:** 4,154,440

# **Location Map:**



Regional location of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHS.

## **Regional Context:**

Type of Context: Cultural

### **Description:**

The area was settled in the late 1700s while still part of Virginia and used agriculturally until its preservation as Lincoln's birthplace. The commemorative landscape has been restored as a historic site by the National Park Service honoring Abraham Lincoln.

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

## **Description:**

The park lies in the extreme eastern portion of Pennyrile, a physiographic region in west-central Kentucky. Pennyrile is part of the Highland Rim section of the Interior Low Plateau with gently rolling topography. The area is a karst region produced by the dissolution of limestone by water and characterized by underground streams, caves, sinkholes, small ponds and long valleys.



Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHS on USGS topographical map Hodgenville, KY, revised 1987.

**Type of Context:** Political

### **Description:**

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site is located in LaRue County, Kentucky three miles south of Hodgenville. The park is located in the U.S. Second Congressional District of Kentucky.

Management Unit: ABLI

**Tract Numbers:** portion of 01-101, 01-102

# **Management Information**

## **General Management Information**

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 07/11/2008

Maintenance Location Code: 66990

**NPS Legal Interest:** 

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

**Public Access:** 

Type of Access: With Permission

**Adjacent Lands Information** 

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

**Adjacent Lands Description:** 

The lands bordering the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site were once part of the 300 acre Sinking Spring Farm owned by Thomas Lincoln. During and after Lincoln's tenure, farming occurred on the property and continued even when the historic site was established by the Lincoln Farm Association. Development has compromised some of the surrounding area, but mature growth from the NPS 1935 Planting Plan blocks incompatible views from the Memorial Landscape.

# **National Register Information**

## **Existing National Register Status**

## **National Register Landscape Documentation:**

Entered Inadequately Documented

## **National Register Explanatory Narrative:**

ABLI was administratively entered on the National Register in 1966 and later documentation of the Memorial Building and traditional log cabin was added in 1977. The 1977 nomination is very basic and does not include the Memorial Landscape. The period of significance for the memorialization (1909-1935) should be added to future documentation and include the terraced stairway, allee, hedges, and Memorial Plaza as well as War Department and National Park Service improvements.

### **Existing NRIS Information:**

Name in National Register: Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

NRIS Number: 66000066

Primary Certification Date: 10/15/1966

Other Certifications and Date: Additional Documentation - 12/13/1977

# **National Register Eligibility**

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Contributing/Individual: Individual

National Register Classification: District

Significance Level: National

Significance Criteria: A - Associated with events significant to broad

patterns of our history

Significance Criteria: C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of

master, or high artistic values

**Criteria Considerations:** F -- A commemorative property

## **Period of Significance:**

Time Period: AD 1808 - 1811

**Historic Context Theme:** Peopling Places

**Subtheme:** Westward Expansion of the Colonies and the United States,

1763-1898

**Facet:** The Farmers' Frontier

**Time Period:** AD 1909 - 1935

**Historic Context Theme:** Expressing Cultural Values

Subtheme: Landscape Architecture

**Facet:** The Revival Of Classicism

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

### Statement of Significance:

The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site has a nationally significant Memorial Landscape honoring the sixteenth president of the United States. The location of Lincoln's birthplace is commemorated by John Russell Pope in a Neoclassical style Memorial Building and associated formal landscape (Criterion C). The Memorial Landscape is not only an extension of Pope's classical architectural design, but an important example of Lincoln commemoration at the turn of the twentieth century (Criterion A). The temple form, ordered stairway, and symmetrical landscape plantings represent the Neoclassical style at the birthplace of Lincoln, one of the most significant and honored American presidents. Though birthplaces do not usually qualify for the National Register, the site is significant for the commemoration of Lincoln in its own right (Criteria Consideration F). The Lincoln tenure is significant (1808-1811) though the landscape from that period retains very little integrity. Only the location of the spring and boundary oak remain. The Memorial Landscape period of significance (1909-1935) includes the landscape development by Pope and later improvements by the Federal government.

The site is part of the original Sinking Spring Farm established by Thomas Lincoln, Abraham's father, in 1808. On a knoll adjacent to the spring (for which the 300 acre farm was named) a one room log cabin was built. Abraham Lincoln was born there on February 12, 1809. The property was only owned by the Lincolns until 1811, when a financial dispute forced the family to move to nearby Knob Creek. The farm was subdivided and changed owners several times over the next eighty years but was always identified by a large White Oak at the property boundary. In 1894, Alfred W. Dennett bought the property to preserve the birthplace of Lincoln and reconstructed a log cabin for display. The cabin, which is currently displayed in the Memorial Building, is not conclusively identified as the cabin where

Lincoln was born but does date to the nineteenth century. Dennett opened the site to visitors and toured the cabin around the country but eventually went bankrupt and lost the property. The Lincoln Farm Association (LFA) organized to buy the land and permanently preserve the birthplace site by constructing a fitting memorial to Lincoln. Initially Jules Guerin and Guy Lowell, noted landscape architects were consulted for recommendations in designing the site. Later a committee led by Thomas Hastings and Charles McKim hand-chose an architect to design the memorial.

John Russell Pope a promising young, Ecole des Beaux Arts-trained architect was selected to design the Lincoln birthplace memorial. The LFA commissioned Pope, who furthered the popular view of classicism as the appropriate style for memorial architecture and went on to design the National Gallery of Art, Constitutional Hall, the National Archives Building and the Jefferson Memorial in Washington DC all in the Beaux Arts or Classical Revival. He was dubbed the "Last of the Romans" by Joseph Hudnut for his relentless dedication to the style. The architecture of John Russell Pope shows a distinctive interpretation of classic forms in his contemporary compositions. Pope used massive blank walls and limited ornamentation and fenestration to give the classical vocabulary a modern quality. The Memorial Building is an excellent example of this simple form, with classical adornments including a parapet, inscriptions and columns. His public buildings were esteemed in popular opinion and the architectural record. The ideals of American Democracy were symbolically translated not only in the buildings of John Russell Pope but in the associated landscapes.

Pope's original design for the Memorial to Lincoln exceeded the LFA budget so the building and landscape were scaled back to the present design. The Memorial Building was constructed of granite and concrete with columns and a parapet on the main elevation and a large interior exhibition space which housed the re-erected log cabin. The controlled approach to the Memorial Building consists of a terraced stairway with four landings and 56 steps, one for each year of Lincoln's life. Clipped hedges paralleled the stairs and enclosed a rectilinear area of grass. Lombardy poplar plantings (having a columnar effect) provided a visual edge beyond the hedges. The stairway and plantings directed the vista from the Memorial Building to an open plaza, which was level and empty except for a singular flagstaff in the center. The axial symmetry and emphasized views gave formality to the landscape and reinforced the architectural features. The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Building and Landscape are significant contributions to Neoclassical architecture, landscape architecture and the memorialization of Abraham Lincoln.

The revival of classical architecture coincided with the popular City Beautiful movement and was readily appropriate for the plethora of monuments and memorials built at the time. After his assassination, Abraham Lincoln became an American martyr and by the turn of the century was a momentous figure comparable to the founding fathers. Lincoln, from humble beginnings to Civil War president, had commanded the respect of many Americans and was in place to be honored with a memorial. The construction of the Lincoln Birthplace Memorial was the first major memorial dedicated to Lincoln besides a few smaller statues in Washington DC. The Birthplace Memorial honored Lincoln and the unlimited possibilities of America (from obscurity to fame) but was soon overshadowed by the Washington DC memorial on the Mall designed by Henry Bacon and completed in 1922.

The War Department received the birthplace site from the LFA in 1916 and made extraneous changes following many years of neglect. The plaza was regraded and formal walkways and grass were added to the makeshift parking area. The spring approach was paved with flagstone with a retaining wall and steps constructed. Benches were also added by the War Department. When the National Park Service assumed ownership of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace site in 1933 further alterations were made. The most significant change associated with the Park Development era was the 1935 Planting Plan. The NPS replaced the Lombardy poplars with Red cedars and planted other deciduous trees along the Plaza outside of the formal landscape. The significant period of Lincoln commemoration ended when the National Park Service restored the landscape.

The Memorial Landscape retains integrity despite some changes to the original Pope design. The location and association, primary reasons for the memorial to Abraham Lincoln, are unchanged. The overall formal plan has kept Pope's organization and feeling. While the Lombardy poplar allée has been replaced with red cedar (in 1935 and again in 2006), the cedars are much less disease resistant and their columnar form perpetuates the original design intent. Additionally, the reintroduction of the adjacent hedges recaptures another aspect of Pope's original design intent. While they are now Japanese holly, rather than the earlier invasive exotic Chinese privet, their form and growth habit are in keeping with the original design intent. The integrity of workmanship in the Memorial Building and terraced stairway is evident as only minor repairs have been needed in almost 100 years. The setting of the Memorial surrounded by agricultural fields has changed with development and maturing trees. 1935 NPS plantings obstruct the intended view from the Memorial Building and stairway but keep out current incompatible development. The material integrity is mostly intact though changes were made to the stairway landings and Plaza. Despite the adjustments undertaken, the integrity of the Memorial Landscape is good and the War Department and NPS additions contribute to the Lincoln birthplace memorial.

The commemoration of Abraham Lincoln at his birthplace is a significant contribution by John Russell Pope to the style of memorial architecture in America. The Neoclassical architecture of Pope reflects the national sentiment for Lincoln while the ordered landscape imposed on the natural topography highlights the stature he reached in American history. The artistic memorialization by Pope makes the birthplace a significant landscape.

# **Chronology & Physical History**

**Cultural Landscape Type and Use** 

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Other Use/Function Other Type of Use or Function

Small Residential Landscape Historic

Landscape-Other Both Current And Historic

Monument (Building) Both Current And Historic

### **Current and Historic Names:**

Name Type of Name

Sinking/Cave Spring Farm Historic

Lincoln Thomas Farm Historic

Nolin Creek Farm Historic

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Both Current And Historic

Site

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

**Chronology:** 

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1808	Built	Sinking Spring Farm Owner: Thomas Lincoln
AD 1811	Moved	Lincoln family leaves Sinking Spring Farm and moves to Knob Creek Farm.
AD 1816 - 1837	Farmed/Harvested	Land used by various owners including Creal family who builds another log cabin on the property.
AD 1860	Removed	By 1860, a log cabin on the Lincoln farm is dismantled and removed.
AD 1894	Purchased/Sold	110 acres preserved as memorial to Abraham Lincoln. Owner: Alfred W. Dennett.
AD 1905 - 1906	Purchased/Sold	Birthplace preserved by Lincoln Farm Association.
AD 1909 - 1911	Built	Architect John Russell Pope builds Abraham Lincoln Memorial Building and associated Memorial Landscape. Cornerstone dedication by Teddy Roosevelt.
AD 1916	Preserved	Property donated to War Department.

AD 1916 - 1948	Altered	The c. 1910 LFA pink granite entry markers are most likely removed by the War Department during entrance improvements. A wire gate and four stone pillars are installed at the entry. These are also subsequently discarded.
AD 1928	Built	Picnic pavilion, comfort station, maintenance buildings and fences constructed. Benches were added to the landings on the Memorial staircase and a new approach road to access the maintenance buildings.
AD 1928 - 1933	Restored	Memorial Landscape restoration: Sinking Spring retaining wall steps and landing constructed, Plaza regraded, walkways and wall with bench added, approach road realigned, drainage system improved, and parking ellipse constructed. The Lombardy poplars were replaced during the War Department improvements because of their susceptibility to canker disease and short life span and the terraced hedges simplified to a uniform height.
AD 1933	Land Transfer	Franklin D. Roosevelt transfers all historic sites and monuments to the National Park Service.
AD 1935	Planted	Park Development Era Planting. Cedars added near the Plaza and parking ellipse to protect views from the Memorial Building and minimize the visual interruption of the Nancy Lincoln Inn. Additional trees were planted to improve wooded areas.
	Altered	Lombardy Poplar allee replaced with Red Cedars (due to failed attempt by War Department to perpetuate the classical planting in 1928)
AD 1941	Demolished	Creal cabins demolished.
AD 1951	Built	Superintendent's house constructed.
AD 1956	Altered	Gravel stair landings replaced with aggregate concrete.
AD 1959	Demolished	War Department buildings removed.

AD 1959 - 1973	Built	Visitor Center and Park Staff housing built through NPS Mission 66 program. Improvements were made to the maintenance shed, park entrance, and recreational area. A restroom and parking area were added to the east portion of the park and the Big Sink trail was developed.
AD 1984	Altered	Flagstone walkways replaced with aggregate concrete.
AD 1986	Removed	Boundary Oak removed from site. Once the tree died in 1976, testing revealed that it was 195 years old.
AD 1993	Built	Picnic shelter on eastern tract of Abriaham Lincoln Birthplace unit.
AD 1995 - 1996	Built	A drinking fountain was added near the Sinking Spring and the Superintendent's residence was removed in 1996.
AD 2006	Rehabilitated	The remaining 23 red cedars are removed. A new red cedar allee and Japanese holly hedge are planted.
AD 2007 - 2008	Retained	Discarded stone entry markers from possibly two periods of park development are found in the picnic area during a SEAC study.

## **Physical History:**

1750-1816 Settlement and Sinking Spring Farm

Attracted to the uncultivated land west of the Appalachians, European Americans moved into Kentucky during the mideighteenth century. The population greatly increased when the state of Virginia, still laying claim to its Kentucky counties, issued 10,000 land grants to veterans of the American Revolution to settle the area. Thomas Lincoln came with his parents to Kentucky around 1782 at the age of sixteen. In 1806, he married Nancy Hanks and in 1808, with money inherited from his father, purchased a 300 acre farm located on a rise above the "Sinking Spring." It was here on February 12, 1809; Abraham Lincoln was born in a one room log cabin. Due to an unsettled debt, the Lincolns were forced to leave Sinking Spring Farm after only two years, leasing land at nearby Knob Creek Farm. In 1816, the disputed property was sold at auction and Thomas Lincoln moved his family to Indiana. There is no documentation of the landscape during this period, though character defining features of the Sinking Spring farm remained after the Lincoln's departure. The sinking spring and the site of the boundary oak, the tree marking the property line of the original farm, remain extant.

#### 1816 to 1894 Continued Agricultural Use

John Welsh purchased the property, subdivided the farm into smaller tracts, and sold the land to several owners. As the southern portion was bought and sold, the farm remained identified by the boundary oak and included the spring. By 1837, Richard Creal and the Henry Brothers owned the "Sinking Spring" tract. The log cabin used by the Lincolns remained on site and was disassembled and moved in 1860. The Creal house, located on the Louisville Nashville Road, was constructed from an amalgam of logs and expanded over the years. The Creals used the spring as a primary source of water and farmed the land, though no information exists on the type or location of crops. The 110 acre Sinking Spring farm remained in cultivation (and the Creal house intact) after the sale to Alfred W. Dennett, a New York restaurateur, in 1894. During this period after Lincoln's tenure, the landscape did not change drastically and little information about the Creal period exists due to lack of integrity.

The assassination of Abraham Lincoln in 1865 brought interest to his humble beginnings. Accounts of the farm from visitors in 1860 and 1865 noted the straight road leading three miles from Hodgenville. A knoll and the sinking spring identified the site, with a chimney ruin and pear trees surviving from the Lincoln period.

### 1894 to 1916 Private Commemoration of the Lincoln Birthplace

Dennett tried to capitalize on his investment (and finance his ever-recurring debt) by hosting an exhibit in 1895 for a nearby G.A.R. encampment. A tour of the farm and rebuilt "birth cabin" aimed to bring attention to the Lincoln birthplace, but was mildly successful at best. The Tennessee Exposition in Nashville in 1897 displayed the "birth cabin" rebuilt by Dennett along with Jefferson Davis' birth cabin. After the expo, the cabins were dismantled and stored in a New York basement owned by Dennett.

The farm was eventually sold to David Crear in 1901, after several attempts to entice the U.S.

government to buy the property. Crear defended his title to the farm in court once Dennett went bankrupt, but lost the case. The farm was auctioned off to pay creditors. Richard Jones, an employee of Collier's Weekly, purchased the tract for Robert J. Collier. A series of articles published in Collier's magazine highlighted the Lincoln farm and solicited membership for an association to preserve the farm. With nation-wide interest, the Lincoln Farm Association was formed in 1906 to take title of the birthplace farm and to oversee the development of the property. Momentum gathered and plans began to create a memorial to Abraham Lincoln. Money was raised by donation and architects Guy Lowell and Jules Guerin traveled to Kentucky to survey the site for development.

The result, John Russell Pope's Memorial Building completed in 1911, became the focal point of a commemorative landscape. The Memorial Building was designed to sit atop a knoll next to the Sinking Spring. Formal stairs, one for each year of Lincoln's life, led from a granite-lined formal plaza and central flagpole. The symmetrical view overlooked surrounding agricultural land and highlighted the rural environment in which Lincoln began life. Mature, terraced hedges framed the staircase and Lombardy poplars were chosen to reinforce the classical landscape design and frame the vista from the Plaza to the Memorial Building. Historic photographs suggest lawns were adjacent to the site.

In 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt attended a cornerstone laying ceremony at the farm and the reconstructed "birth cabin" was reassembled on site. In 1911, a dedication ceremony took place at the completed Memorial Building with an address by President William Howard Taft. The Lincoln Farm Association bestowed the property to Kentucky at the ceremony, but continued to pursue legislation to establish a national park.

On July 17, 1916, an act of Congress (39 Stat. 385) authorized the United States to accept as a gift, a deed from the Lincoln Farm Association which included "...land near the town of Hodgenville, County La Rue, State of Kentucky, embracing the homestead of Abraham Lincoln and the log cabin in which he was born." It was stated that the land described, together with the buildings and appurtenances thereon, "shall be forever dedicated to the purposes of a national park or reservation, the United States of America agreeing to protect and preserve said lands, buildings, and appurtenances, and especially the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born and the Memorial Hall enclosing the same" (Peterson, 38). Thus, the birthplace farm was set aside to commemorate the sixteenth President of the United States, under the administration of the War Department.



Lincoln Cabin on site 1909.



Pastoral setting during construction 1910.



Dedication ceremony 1911.

#### 1916 to 1933 War Department

The War Department carried out a number of changes to the site between 1928 and 1933, focusing on improvements that would accommodate visitor use. All of the War Department's work was extraneous to Pope's design with the exception of fill, which was added to the Plaza to manage drainage issues on site. The War Department rerouted the entrance (within the park boundaries) and constructed a parking ellipse (1929). To manage the drainage problem, an underground system was installed, the grade raised ten to twelve inches, and improvements made to the Plaza walkways. The Sinking Spring received improvements to the steps, landing, and retaining wall. The layout of cross axial paths and lawn added to the Plaza upgrades and a new route for the maintenance area was added to the north side of the property. The once gravel Plaza was planted with grass and a stone wall with built in seat was built to border the improved Plaza. Records indicate the Lombardy poplars were replaced at this time, likely due to their susceptibility to canker diseases or a short life span. The multi-tiered hedges framing the staircase were simplified to a single unified height at this time, too. Parallel benches were added to the stair landings and a rail fence constructed along portions of the park visible from the highway. The War Department added two buildings, a restroom and picnic pavilion, to the northeast of the commemorative landscape. A garage and two stone pump houses were built off the service road. There is no documentation for landscape improvements to the eastern portion of the park. During the War Department administration, the Creal house remained standing near the park entrance and served as housing for the supervisor.



Memorial Landscape with original hedge config 1928.



War Department Memorial Landscape 1932.



War Department pavilion and restrooms

#### 1933 to Present National Park Service

The site was transferred to the National Park Service (NPS) in 1933. Major NPS alterations were based on a 1935 Planting Plan but no other improvements occurred until the Mission 66 initiative. Cedars were planted to create a natural grove and confine views from the parking ellipse and Memorial Building recently compromised by the Nancy Lincoln Inn (1928) on adjacent property. The NPS also replaced the Lombardy poplars with eastern red cedars (Juniperus virginiana) on either side of the staircase possibly due to the earlier failed attempt by the War Department.

In 1941, the NPS removed the Creal house. Other entrance alteration occurred in 1948 with the removal of the granite markers and the installation of a new entry sign and four historical markers. The Superintendent's house constructed in 1951 was removed in 1996.

In 1959, as part of the Mission 66 program to upgrade visitor services, the NPS constructed a Modern Visitor Center and staff housing on site. The park also removed the log picnic pavilion and restrooms built by the War Department. The park was also renamed with its current nomenclature, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. The Memorial landscape received one change during the Mission 66 period, the pea gravel landings on the staircase were replaced with aggregate concrete (1958). Since Mission 66, some red cedars have been replaced due to aging. In 1984, the War Department flagstone steps and sidewalk were replaced with aggregate concrete. A drinking fountain was installed in 1995 at the entrance to the sinking spring.

The boundary oak remained in place during the NPS period, but six acres were added to preserve the surrounding area in the late 1940s. Some manipulation of the ground for drainage occurred and the tree died in 1976. Upon removal in 1986, the boundary oak was tested and found to be 195 years old. Today the site is preserved.

The east portion of the park received a new parking area and rest room (Mission 66- 1968) and the Big Sink Trail was completed in 1970. A picnic shelter was added in 1993 and today the tract is used for passive recreation.

# **Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity**

## **Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:**

The ABLI Memorial Landscape retains all seven aspects of integrity (location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association) to varying degrees.

### Location

The commemorative landscape is located on the site of the Sinking Spring Farm, birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. The Memorial Building occupies the accepted site of the Lincoln cabin and is oriented in the same direction (southeast) as the log cabin reconstructed by Dennett and Bigham (c.1895). The Sinking Spring and Boundary Oak site, adjacent to the Lincoln Farm Association development, were included in both the memorial plan and improvements completed by the War Department. The Memorial Landscape occupies the heart of the Thomas Lincoln Farm and retains integrity of location.

#### Setting

The location and orientation of the Memorial Building formal landscape and the larger agricultural context, conveys the integrity of setting. However, the agrarian setting of the early Memorial has been continually compromised over the years by construction and plantings that obscure views. To counter the effects of nearby development, the NPS chose to use vegetation to screen the Memorial from unwanted views and focus the visitor's attention on the Memorial Building itself. The integrity of setting is only slightly diminished as rural land still surrounds the park.

While the immediate setting created by the Memorial Landscape retains a high degree of integrity, the larger agricultural setting, which the views to and from the Memorial Building were to take advantage of, has been lost. Adding more trees and shrubs to the landscape around the Visitor Center has further reduced the integrity of the extended agricultural setting.

#### Design

The Pope design of the Memorial Building completed for the 1911 dedication of the Abraham Lincoln birthplace retains original design elements and compatible War Department landscape improvements. All of the War Department's work was extraneous to Pope's design with the exception of fill added to the Plaza and the layout of cross-axial paths and a lawn. For the most part, the War Department work was high quality and did not detract from the original Pope design of the Memorial Building Landscape. The NPS changes to the site affected the War Department features more than the Pope design and the Mission 66 Visitor Center does not contribute to the significance of the landscape. Overall, the landscape exhibits a high degree of design integrity.

Because of development outside the park, the NPS 1935 Planting Plan changed the way visitors perceived the site, from one with external views and vistas, to one that is very internally focused. Although the planting of cedars in 1935 was intended to frame the approach walk and view toward the Memorial Building in much the same way the poplars had, the long-term effect has compromised the original design. In 2004, approximately one-half of the original red cedar allée survived. Red cedars, as

they age, lose the limbs on their lower trunk, therefore causing the allée to lose its sense of enclosure. The original design intent has improved, however, with the removal of the aging red cedars and planting of a new red cedar allée. As the major character-defining vegetative feature in the landscape, the allée's existence is essential in preserving the park's landscape. The allée is the one vegetative feature common to both the 1911 and the 1930s landscape. The simplification of the hedges along the Memorial Building Stairway also diminished the integrity of the Pope design, but they, also, were reintroduced in 2006.

#### Materials

The integrity of materials associated with the original Pope design remains mostly intact. The pink granite on the Memorial Building, repeated in the steps and cheek walls, is in good condition. The War Department replaced the gravel Memorial Plaza with grass and stone paths once the parking ellipse was removed (1929). At some later date, the original ornamental flagstaff was replaced with a sleek, more contemporary design, diminishing the integrity of the Pope landscape.

The materials of the extant War Department development suffered greater change. The NPS replaced the pea gravel landings along the stairway (1956), the axial stone paths in the Plaza (1984), and the stone stairs leading down from the parking ellipse with exposed aggregate concrete. The integrity of the significant Pope-era plant material has also been altered by the NPS. The decision to replace the Lombardy poplars with cedars caused a dramatic change in the relationship of the vegetation and the architecture, but was necessary because of the poplar's susceptibility to canker.

#### Workmanship

The workmanship of the original Pope construction, including the building, associated walls, steps, and plantings retains integrity. The features of the War Department also retain integrity of workmanship. The fact that the Pope work nears the century mark and is still in good condition is evidence of both its quality and the continuing maintenance.

#### Feeling

The integrity of feeling is slightly diminished by the encroaching vegetation and incompatible development around the Memorial site. The primary experience of climbing a monumental stair to the Memorial Building to view the birth cabin retains strong integrity. The procession through the surrounding agricultural landscape to a monumental space (dominated by the imposing classicism of the Memorial Building) has been cut short by later construction within and outside the Birthplace Unit boundary.

The increasing amount of vegetation, both planted and seeded naturally, that was encouraged to grow up between the incompatible development and the Memorial Landscape contributes to a loss of integrity. The loss of vegetation, particularly the formally planted edge of Lombardy poplars and early cedars, has compromised the feeling of enclosure. Again, this situation is improved by the replanting of the allée.

Association

The association of the Memorial Landscape with the birth of Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States is unquestioned. Although today it is not the most famous Lincoln memorial, the Birthplace Memorial was the first memorial developed to honor the life of the assassinated president. The country's long attachments to humble beginnings and "obscurity to fame" stories have their roots in the Lincoln Birthplace Memorial.

Aspects of Integrity: Location

Design

Setting

Materials

Workmanship

Feeling

Association

### **Landscape Characteristic:**

## **Buildings and Structures**

The historic buildings at ABLI are the focal point of the Memorial landscape and retain good integrity of location, association, materials, workmanship, and feeling. The log cabin encapsulated within the Memorial Building is the centerpiece honoring Lincoln, located on the high ground next to the spring (the accepted birthplace site). The Neoclassical Memorial Building designed by John Russell Pope and completed in 1911 provides the centerpiece to the formal landscape including staircase, Plaza, plantings, and commemorative features. The buildings are of primary significance in the design and spatial arrangement of the historical landscape.

The Creal cabin, postdating the Lincoln period, was removed in 1941 and two stone pump houses and a garage (c.1930) were constructed east of the Memorial Building. The two extant buildings, a pump house and storage house are undetermined as contributing resources. The War Department built a log picnic pavilion and rest room, which were later removed by the NPS. A Superintendent's residence (1951) was removed in 1996.

The Mission 66 initiative to provide increased visitor services included the construction of a modern Visitor Center (1958) at ABLI. Two staff houses (1959) were also constructed and an overflowing parking lot added. Restrooms (1968) were added on the eastern portion of the unit. These modern buildings do not contribute to the significant, commemorative landscape. Other non-contributing structures added in recent years include the maintenance shed (1973) and picnic shelter (eastern portion, 1993).

### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Picnic shelter

# Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Landscape Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

Feature Identification Number: 128037

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Restroom

Feature Identification Number: 128039

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Building

Feature Identification Number: 108198

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 2

LCS Structure Name: Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Building

LCS Structure Number: ABLI-02

Feature: Traditional Lincoln Birthplace Cabin

Feature Identification Number: 108200

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7354

LCS Structure Name: Traditional Lincoln Birthplace Cabin

LCS Structure Number: ABLI-01

Feature: Visitor Center

Feature Identification Number: 108202

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Maintenance Shed

Feature Identification Number: 108204

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Staff House #1

Feature Identification Number: 108210

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Staff House #2

Feature Identification Number: 108208

# Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Landscape Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Pump House

Feature Identification Number: 108212

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Storage Building

Feature Identification Number: 108214

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

# **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



Lincoln Cabin on Site, 1909



Memorial Building Landscape, 1913



Memorial Building with Red Cedar Allee, 1925



Visitor Center, 1959

### **Small Scale Features**

The small scale features at ABLI Birthplace represent the original commemorative design, War Department additions, and improvements added by the National Park Service. The formal features, including the Plaza, staircase, and flagpole date to the 1911 construction and retain integrity of location, design, association, feeling, and setting. Changes made to the Plaza and flagpole by the War Department and the addition of aggregate concrete to the stair landings (by the NPS) diminished the integrity of materials and workmanship.

The War Department improvements (1928-1933) to the site retain good integrity and contribute to the commemorative landscape. The addition of stairs to the parking lot, the Plaza wall/bench, benches, and Sinking Spring entrance and drain contribute to the formal landscape and retain integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The flagpole was replaced at some point after the original Plaza was regraded and is an undetermined resource. The split rail fence added by the War Department was relocated during the expansion of U.S. 31 E and does not contribute or retain integrity. Granite entry markers once located at the park entrance have been removed.

A modern stone drinking fountain added near the Sinking Spring in 1993 is a non-contributing resource. The CLR suggests moving this small scale feature.

Stone entry markers from possibly two periods of development have been located in the picnic area.

## **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Benches

# Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Landscape Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

Feature Identification Number: 128253

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Stone entry markers (not in orig. loc.)

Feature Identification Number: 129519

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Drinking fountain

Feature Identification Number: 108190

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Sinking Spring Entrance and Drain

Feature Identification Number: 108186

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 21026

LCS Structure Name: Sinking Spring Entrance and Drain

LCS Structure Number: ABLI-03

Feature: Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Plaza

Feature Identification Number: 108196

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 90080

LCS Structure Name: Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Plaza

LCS Structure Number: ABLI-04

Feature: Stone Stairs from Parking Area

Feature Identification Number: 108192

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 90082

LCS Structure Name: Stone Stairs from Parking Area

LCS Structure Number: ABLI-06

Feature: Plaza Wall/Bench

Feature Identification Number: 108188

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

# Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Landscape Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

IDLCS Number: 90166

LCS Structure Name: Plaza Wall/Bench

LCS Structure Number: ABLI-05

Feature: Flagpole

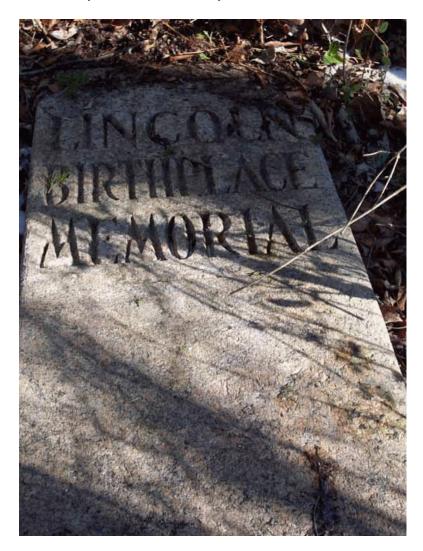
Feature Identification Number: 108184

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Split Rail Fence

Feature Identification Number: 108182

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing



One of the stone entry markers that had been discarded in the picnic area, possibly during the War Department era, or sometime after (2008).



Memorial Plaza, 2004



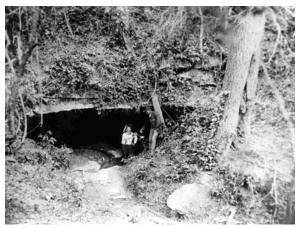
Stone Steps to Parking Lot, date unknown



Granite Entry Markers, date unknown

### **Natural Systems and Features**

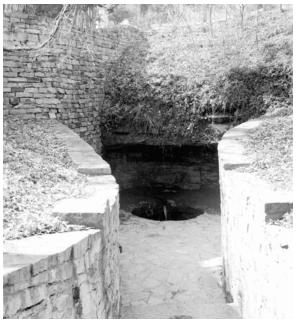
The spring is one of the only defining features of the original Lincoln birthplace landscape. The "Sinking Spring" provided water to the Lincolns and later property owners and identified the historic site to those commemorating Lincoln. The spring remained in its natural formation until the War Department added stone retaining walls and stone steps to make it more accessible in 1928. In 1995, the NPS added a handicap accessible water fountain to the uppermost stone landing by the spring.



Sinking Spring, 1890s



Sinking Spring, 1928

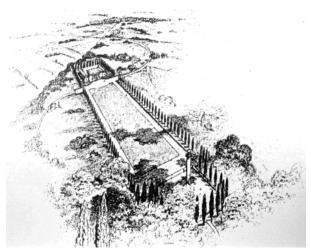


Sinking Spring, 1938

#### **Spatial Organization**

The organization of the Memorial Landscape centers on the Memorial Building. Symmetrical vegetation and features form an axis along the terraced stairway, echoing the descending slope. The arrangement of hedges, trees and benches alongside the steps with an open Plaza terminus display the classical landscape arrangement by Pope. Although vegetation has been altered and the Plaza improved, the spatial organization retains complete integrity from the LFA design. The original Lombardy poplars once gave the Pope landscape a formal border, repeating the columnar shape of the Memorial Building entrance. The vista to and from the Memorial Building has been altered but is still strongly emphasized in the relationship of the building to the stairs and Plaza.

Type of Contribution: Contributing



Pope's Initial Plan, 1908



Red Cedar Allee, 2003

#### **Views and Vistas**

The vista along the formal Memorial Landscape is still relatively intact, despite the change from Lombardy poplars to cedars by the National Park Service (1935 and 2006). The view of a pastoral landscape from the Memorial Building, a major design feature, is partially obstructed by mature growth intended to screen the Memorial from the Nancy Lincoln Inn. The 1935 Planting

Plan included additional wooded areas and today the broader landscape surrounding the formal axis is heavily wooded, a change from the agricultural land once highlighted at the site. Despite the NPS planting, development outside of the park has altered the rural setting and views from Jackson Highway (U.S. 31) are obscured. The views and vistas from the commemorative landscape retain integrity of design and location, though woods and development impact the site.



View of Sinking Spring Farm, 1895



View from Jackson Highway, 1928

#### Circulation

The NPS replaced the contributing War Department flagstone pathways and original Memorial landscape stairway landings with aggregate concrete, compromising the integrity of workmanship and feeling. While the location and function of the pathways and landings has not changed, the material integrity is lost. The NPS also added additional pedestrian circulation routes that do not contribute to the significant landscape. These include, the Big Sink Trail (1970), the Boundary Oak Trail (1970), and the Pathway of a President (1991), in addition to sidewalks associated with the overflow parking and the Visitor Center.

The Entrance road and Service road, contributing as War Department improvements, retain integrity of location, association, and design. The park roads on the west portion of the Birthplace unit remain in the same location as originally laid out. The Parking ellipse (1929) also contributes to the spatial organization, design, and use of the landscape as a commemorative site accessible to the newly popular motor vehicles of the time. The parking lot retains integrity of location, design, association, workmanship, and feeling. Overflow parking added in 1958 and circulation on the eastern portion of the park (1960s) are non-contributing.

Improvements to the circulation and access of the Sinking Spring are contributing features of the landscape. See small scale features Analysis & Evaluation.

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Overflow Parking

Feature Identification Number: 128255

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Boundary Oak Trail

Feature Identification Number: 128257

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Big Sink Trail

Feature Identification Number: 128261

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Pathway of a President

Feature Identification Number: 128263

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Service Road

Feature Identification Number: 128265

# Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Landscape Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Entrance road

Feature Identification Number: 128267

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Walkways

Feature Identification Number: 128269

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Park roads (eastern portion)

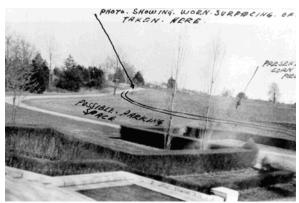
Feature Identification Number: 128271

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Parking ellipse

Feature Identification Number: 128273

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing



Entrance Road, 1928



Aerial, 1938



Aerial, 1959

# Vegetation

The formal Memorial landscape includes clipped hedges and an allée framing the major axis between the Memorial Building and the Plaza. Eastern red cedars (Juniperus virginiana) replaced the disease-prone Lombardy poplar allée bordering the Memorial Building hedges and

staircase. Lombardy poplars were unsuccessful as an allée planting, despite their classic shape and structure. The aging red cedars were removed, as recommended in the CLR, and replaced with a new red cedar allée.

The clipped hedges along the stairway have also been simplified by the War Department and National Park Service, but retain integrity of location, design, association, and feeling. The change in vegetation has noticeably altered the Memorial Landscape but the design is intact and restoration recommended by the CLR.

A grove near the southern park boundary was planted to screen the Nancy Lincoln Inn during the 1935 Planting Plan. The cedar grove has matured beyond its original purpose and views of the adjacent buildings can be seen below the bottom branches. Other buffer plantings to screen the Memorial Building from the picnic pavilion and restrooms have matured, despite the removal of the structures. The NPS has added other specimen trees to the site after the completion of the 1935 Plan and additional plantings when the Mission 66 construction occurred. Today, the broader site landscape is heavily wooded and does not retain the integrity of the intended agricultural surroundings. Development outside of the park, however, necessitates the forested areas obstruct incompatible views.

The Boundary Oak, a significant tree marking the Lincoln property, died in 1976 and was removed in 1986. The site of the oak remains, though drainage issues prevent the site from being used for replanting.

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Eastern red cedar allée

Feature Identification Number: 128275

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Hedges

Feature Identification Number: 128277

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing



Memorial Landscape with Red Cedar



Boundary Oak, 1919

#### Condition

#### **Condition Assessment and Impacts**

**Condition Assessment:** Good

Assessment Date: 07/11/2008

**Impacts** 

Type of Impact: Improper Drainage

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** The Boundary Oak site is currently used for retention, preventing

any replanting in the area.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** ABLI has invasive plants, including privet, that effect the

Memorial Landscape. Hedge replacement with non-invasive Japanese holly is recommended and additional planting to replace

missing sections of the original hedge pattern.

#### **Landscape Stabilization Cost Explanatory Description:**

Structure: Number; DLCS; Cost

Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Plaza: ABLI-04; 090080; \$3200 Stone Stairs from Parking Area: BLI-06; 090082; \$2000

Plaza Wall/Bench: ABLI-05; 090166; \$1200

### **Treatment**

### **Treatment**

**Approved Treatment:** Rehabilitation

**Approved Treatment Document:** Cultural Landscape Report

**Document Date:** 03/18/2004

### **Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:**

Certain landscape features, because of their historical importance, will be considered partial restorations within the overall rehabilitation framework.

#### **Approved Treatment Costs**

**Cost Date:** 03/18/2004

#### **Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:**

Structure: Number; IDLCS; Cost

Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Building: ABLI-02; 000002; \$30329 Sinking Spring Entrance and Drain: ABLI-03; 021026; \$6000

# **Bibliography and Supplemental Information**

## **Bibliography**

Citation Author: Gloria Peterson

**Citation Title:** An Administrative History

Year of Publication: 1968

Citation Publisher: National Park Service

Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Location: SERO

Citation Author: Robert W. Blythe, Maureen Carroll and Steven H. Moffson

Citation Title: Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHS Historic Resource Survey

Year of Publication: 2001

Citation Publisher: National Park Service

Source Name: Other
Citation Location: SERO

Citation Author: Stephen B. Oates

Citation Title: With Malice Toward None: The Life of Abraham Lincoln

Year of Publication: 1984

Citation Publisher: Harper & Row

Citation Author: Lucy Lawliss and Susan Hitchcock
Citation Title: ABLI Cultural Landscape Report

Year of Publication: 2004

Citation Publisher: National Park Service

Source Name: Other

Citation Type: Both Graphic and Narrative

Citation Location: SERO

Citation Title: Resource Management Plan

Year of Publication: 1998

Citation Publisher: National Park Service

# **Supplemental Information**

Title: 1935 Planting Plan, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

**Description:** Dated January 01, 1935. Map number 338/P16